

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

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R 101342Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2344

INFO AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

USCINCEUR

EUCOM

CINCUSAFE

USDOCOSOUTH

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 0203

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, TU

SUBJECT: JP REFUSES TO JOIN RIGHTIST COALITION UNDER INDEPENDENT

EUCOM FOR J-2

SUMMARY: THE EFFORT TO UNITE THE RIGHTIST PARTIES IN A GOVERNMENT UNDER AN INDEPENDENT PRIMIN HAS FAILED. THE JUSTICE PARTY (JP) HAS INSISTED ON PROVIDING THE PRIMIN OF ANY RIGHTIST COALITION BECAUSE, AS THE LARGEST MEMBER PARTY, IT WOULD BEAR THE ONUS FOR UNPOPULAR ACTIONS. THE REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) MAY NOW BE GIVEN ANOTHER CHANCE TO FORM A GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY.

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1. AFTER DELIBERATING THREE DAYS, THE JUSTICE PARTY (JP)

ANNOUNCED LATE ON JANUARY 9 THAT IT WOULD NOT JOIN A RIGHTIST COALITION UNDER INTERIM PRIME MINISTER TALU, THUS MAKING FORMATION OF SUCH A GOVERNMENT IMPOSSIBLE. TALU TOLD THE PRESS IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARD THAT HE WOULD ASK PRESIDENT KOCUTURK TO RELIEVE HIM OF THE DUTY OF FORMING A GOVERNMENT.

2. A LENGTHY EXPLANATION ISSUED BY THE JP OBSERVED THAT IF A NORMAL COALITION WERE HEADED BY AN INDEPENDENT, IT WOULD HAVE "THE APPEARANCE OF A CONTINUATION OF THE GOVERNMENTS FORMED AFTER MARCH 12" (A REFERENCE TO THE 1971 "COUP BY MEMORANDUM"). ALTHOUGH ALMOST ALL PARTIES PARTICIPATED IN THE 1971-73 GOVERNMENTS, "THE JP ALWAYS HAD TO ACCOUNT FOR THE UNPLEASANT ACTIONS OF THIS PERIOD WITH THE CLAIM THAT IT WAS THE BIGGEST PARTNER AND THE RESULTS ARE CLEARLY SEEN". TO JOIN A GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBLE FOR SOLVING TURKEY'S PROBLEMS, THE JP MUST HAVE THE NECESSARY POWER; THE OTHER PARTIES OPPOSED TO THE LEFT SHOULD UNITE UNDER JP LEADERSHIP. (A WELL-PLACED JP SOURCE TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT THE PARTY COULD, HOWEVER, CONSIDER A COALITION HEADED BY A JP MEMBER OTHER THAN CHAIRMAN DEMIREL.) THE JP'S STATEMENT ALSO INSISTED ON THE NEED FOR CHANGING THE ELECTION LAWS BEFORE HOLDING NEW ELECTIONS; HOWEVER, NO SPECIFIC CHANGES WERE MENTIONED.

3. TWO DAYS EARLIER, TALU HAD WRONGLY REMARKED TO THE PRESS THAT NO PARTY SEEMED TO WANT TO BE IN POWER, PREFERRING RATHER TO BE IN OPPOSITION DURING THE HARD DAYS AHEAD. HE PREDICTED THAT A FAILURE OF HIS EFFORT WOULD OPEN THE WAY FOR A POSSIBLE COALITION OF THE RPP AND THE NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY (NSP).

4. COMMENT: COLUMNISTS AND DISGUSTED PRIVATE CITIZENS IN GROWING NUMBERS ARE CRITICIZING THE PARTIES FOR FAILING TO COMPROMISE AND FORM A GOVERNMENT; HOWEVER, THE CRITICISM HAS HAD NO VISIBLE EFFECT. IT IS PROBABLY TRUE THAT WHAT APPEARS AS EXCESSIVE PARTISANSHIP TO THEIR CRITICS IS, IN THE PARTIES' EYES, MERELY THE TOUGH BARGAINING BEHAVIOR THAT THEY BELIEVE IS THEIR OBLIGATION TO THEIR SUPPORTERS. NARROW PARTISANSHIP HAS BEEN STANDARD POLITICAL PRACTICE IN TURKEY FOR MANY YEARS EXCEPT DURING PERIODS OF MILITARY INTERVENTION, AND SO FAR THE PARTIES HAVE SHOWN NO SIGNS OF FEARING THAT A NEW INTERVENTION IS IMMINENT IF THEY FAIL TO COOPERATE.

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5. IF, AS TALU FORECAST, THE RPP NOW GETS ANOTHER CHANCE TO SEEK A COALITION WITH THE NSP, ITS CHANCES OF FORMING A GOVERNMENT APPEAR BETTER IN VIEW OF THE TWO PARTIES' COOPERATION THIS WEEK IN THE ELECTIONS OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN (THEY SHARED NINE CHAIRMANSIPS BETWEEN THEM WHILE SHUTTING OUT ALL OTHER PARTIES). FAILING THIS KIND OF COALITION, OTHER ALTERNATIVES ARE A MINORITY RPP GOVERNMENT OR A RIGHT-WING

COALITIONUNDER JP LEADERSHIP.
MACOMBER

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